

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 22-25 are pending in this application. Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 22-25 are independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, and 13-21 have been cancelled.

Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, and 12 have been allowed. Claims 22-25 have been rejected. Claims 22-25 have been cancelled in this Response. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Entry of Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the rejected claims have been canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In numbered paragraph 2 on pages 2-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,400,024). Also, in numbered paragraph 4 on pages 6-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura in view of Tiedemann (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,470).

Claims 22-25 have been cancelled in this Response. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under § 103.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding rejections, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 4/12/04

By: C. Joan Gilsdorf
Christine Joan Gilsdorf
Registration No. 43,635

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501